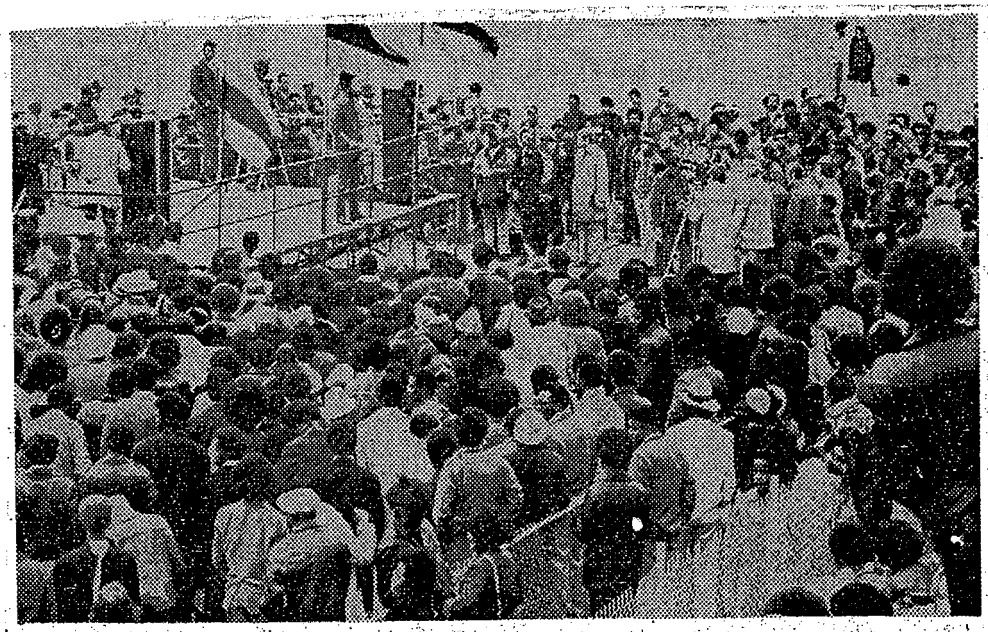
THE STATES-ITEM



—AP WIREPHOTO.

CROWDS LISTEN AS BLACKS pay tribute to two Southern University students killed in a confrontation with police on the Baton Rouge campus Thursday. The memorial service was held yesterday in Shakespeare Park.

Edwards Called 'Murderer' At Southern Memorial Service

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Gov. Edwin Edwards was denounced Monday as a "murderer" and a "racist" at a memorial service held for two students slain on the campus of Southern University in Baton Rouge.

Barbara Allen, a black community organizer and one of the speakers, drew her loudest reponse from the crowd of several hundred when she said, "Edwards is a murderer."

Earl Picard, president of the Student Government Association at Southern's New Orleans branch (SUNO), said the deaths were not accidental, adding, "Everything that happened was caused."

Picard attacked the Southern University system as "a racist approach to education for blacks, controlled by a lily-white state Board of Education that appoints Uncle Tom administrators."

Irvin Heard, a SUNO student, said, "It should be made clear that the time has come for black people to take a definite stand against their oppressors."

Referring to the student protests on both campuses, Heard said, "We must build a relevant black institution, one that will speak to the needs of black people. We are committed and we will fight this one down to the wire. We will not compromise."

As the audience cheered, Heard added; "We know the threat of death is everpresent."

Before the program began, a student who identified herself only as a member of the SUNO Propaganda Committee, said a student boycott would be resumed at SUNO after the Thanksgiving recess.

A boycott was called Oct. 27 and classes were suspended Nov. 1 when a group of militants seized the SUNO administration building to support their demands. The takeover ended nine days later.

Dr. Asa Sims, dean of academic affairs at SUNO, said last week that committees of faculty members and students had reached accord on the grievances and that classes would resume on Nov. 27.

The Propaganda Committee member said progress with the grievances was stifled and "set back to Oct. 27 by racist Gov. Edwin Edwards when he ordered the murder of two black students in Baton Rouge."

She said the class boycott would continue because of this and other factors.